# CONTINUITY: THE PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS TO THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR 1913

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Continuity: The Presidential Address to the British Association for 1913 by Sir Oliver Lodge

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# SIR OLIVER LODGE

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By Sir Oliver Lodge

Life and Matter Continuity

# CONTINUITY

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## THE PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS TO THE BRITISH ASSOCIA-TION FOR 1913

BY

SIR OLIVER LODGE
AUTHOR OF "LIFE AND MATTER," ETC.

SUPPLEMENTED BY EXPLANATORY NOTES

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### SUMMARY OF THE ARGUMENT

A marked feature of the present scientific era is the discovery of, and interest in, various kinds of Atomism; so that Continuity seems in danger of being lost sight of.

Another tendency is toward comprehensive negative generalisations from a limited point of view.

Another is to take refuge in rather vague forms of statement, and to shrink from closer examination of the puzzling and the obscure.

Another is to deny the existence of anything which makes no appeal to organs of sense, and no ready response to laboratory experiment.

Against these tendencies the author contends. He urges a belief in ultimate continuity as essential to science; he regards scientific concentration as an inadequate basis for philosophic generalisation; he

## iv Summary of the Argument

believes that obscure phenomena may be expressed simply if properly faced; and he points out that the non-appearance of anything perfectly uniform and omnipresent is only what should be expected, and is no argument against its real, substantial existence.

Natura non vincitur nisi parendo